



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/612,810	07/10/2000	Anthony S. Bradley	BIT-12	8996

7590 08/26/2003
John E. Vick, Jr.
Dority & Manning, P.A.
Suite 15
700 East North Street
Greenville, SC 29601

EXAMINER

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 08/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Notice
of
Defective Appeal Brief**



1. The appellant's statement in the brief that certain claims do not stand or fall together is not agreed with because Claims 2, 3; 17, 18; 22-24; 25; 31, 33, 34; 32; 35, 37-43; 42, 43; 46-48; are not listed in the grouping of the claims but are separately argued as denoted by the semi-colons above.

Hence, it is unclear as to whether or not the above cited claims stand or fall together, or separately from the claims that are cited in the grouping of the claims.

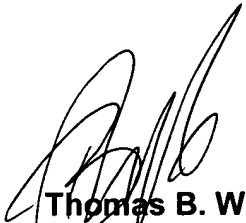
Further, Appellant argues against the rejection of claims 77, 78 as being unpatentable over Bradley in view of Dooleage. However, no claim 78 exists in the application, as filed.

Art Unit: 3671

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raymond Addie whose telephone number is (703) 305-0135. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, 6-8 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will, can be reached on (703) 308-3870. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-8623.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.



Thomas B. Will
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600

RWA
8/18/2003